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WHY I VOLUNTEER FOR THE MONROE INSTITUTE

by Susan Smily

Volunteerism is different things to different people. For most of my life, when I've seen something that needs to be done in a group that I feel connected to, I've offered to do it: high school clubs, summer camps, teacher's organizations.

I attended the Gateway Voyage workshop in 1999 and fell in love with the Monroe Audio programs. This led to completing Lifeline and training to be an Outreach Trainer with my partner, Honora Finkelstein. In addition, we became Hemi-Sync distributors. We attended many programs over the following 15 years, until Honora passed away in 2014.

After that event, I knew I had to go to TMI to tap into the energy that is in the very atmosphere of the Institute, and I wound up spending most of March 2015, at TMI.

One of the programs I attended at that time was the Professional Seminar. I had built a very detailed website for our work, with a lot of internal cross-references, and with articles and feedback I got from Monroe Products, and I showed this to several attendees. It was suggested that it would be wonderful if what I had on my website could be included on the TMI website. (More on this topic later!)

At the same time someone – I can't remember who – suggested that I would be a good archivist for TMI. I wasn't really sure what that might entail, but the Barn was mentioned, so I approached Scooter McMoneagle with an offer to archive the barn, and she accepted quite readily. For me, it was an opportunity to work in the wonderful environment at TMI.

I returned in the fall, ready to tackle the barn, but first I undertook to sort, scan and digitize participant applications for the past 5 years, in order to clean up the filing system a bit.

Meanwhile, I had started working on 2 other projects that were inspired by the discussions at the PD Seminar. It appeared that transferring my website pages to the TMI website would entail a lot of time and expense, so I decided to create a book instead. This book included one section of feedback related to Hemi-Sync use for various real-life applications, with a list of exercises that were related to

that application, and another section that listed every exercise available, with a reference to all the pertinent applications.

This book was published by TMI through CreateSpace in February 2016 and given to all the PD Seminar participants. It is also available for purchase in the TMI store.

The second project grew from looking at the Research section on the TMI website. I knew that there were innumerable reports of research, personal experiences, and the varied uses of Hemi-Sync® in the many publications put out by The Monroe Institute® over the years, going back to 1980, but there were only about 150 articles on the website. I realized that if someone didn't have the publication at hand, they would never be able to find a particular article or story.

Consequently, I scanned every publication I could find back to 1980, converted the PDFs to Word files so that I could edit them, and created a Flash Drive with the original newsletters and all of the articles that were published in them, as well as many other reports that were not included in any of the newsletters (over 850 in total), been formatted as PDFs and are catalogued on the drive by topic and sub-topic.

This Flash Drive was given as a gift to all PD members and was sent to all new PD members. It is also available in the TMI store.

During my most recent stay at TMI, in early 2016, I not only continued my scanning work, and the production of the 2 works mentioned above, but I became very involved in the planning for the PD Seminar. Following the seminar, I offered to take on the role of PD Membership Co-Ordinator as a volunteer for the next 2 years, until (at least) the 2018 Seminar.

At this time, the TMI team also completed some much-needed revisions to the Research section of the website, and I am now working at posting many more reports on the web pages. I have posted the pages from the Feedback section of the book, and I am also working on creating cross-links with the title pages in the store.

This is a pretty big task, but I do it a bit at a time, and it's nice to see the finished product when each new page is completed. As a result of creating all the links, it will now also be possible for me to present the Adventures in Hemi-Sync® Consciousness book as an eBook, with internal links that can allow users to go directly from the book to web articles or store products.

I will return to TMI in January 2017 for another 5-6 month stint, during which time I hope to actually get some of the papers in the barn archived!